

**Softball Tourney
July 3 & 4**

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Gay and Lesbian
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**300,000 Flock to SF
for Sunny Parade**

See Below



The Sacramento Star

A Fortnightly Journal of News and Opinion for the Women and Men of the Gay Community

Volume 1, Number 3

June 30, 1982

Gay Catholics Meet July 3-4

Delegates and observers from the 13 California and Nevada chapters of Dignity, the international gay Catholics' organization, will meet in Sacramento from July 2 through July 4. Sponsored by the chapters of Region 9 (northern California and Nevada), the convention will feature speakers, workshops, entertainment, and a concluding mass.

The Canterbury Inn, 1900 Canterbury Road off Highway 160 in North Sacramento, will be the site of the three-day meeting. The registration fee is \$10, and registration begins at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 3.

Following a business meeting for regional delegates on Friday, July 2, the conference, with the theme "Where Will the Spirit Lead?," gets underway with a welcome and introduction at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 3.

Saturday morning's speakers will be Dr. Josette Mondanaro of the Santa Cruz Center on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, at 9:30 a.m., and Fr. Larry Tozzio, O.F.M., former chaplain of Dignity/Sacramento, at 10:30 a.m.

The conference will break for lunch after Fr. Larry's presentation, reconvening at 1:15 p.m. for a presentation of "Dignity's Outreach to Women" by members of Dignity/Bay Area. "The Person Next to You," a videotape by former Sacramento/Dignity President Allen Chamberlain, will be shown at 2:15. Gary Miller, chair of the Sacramento Human Rights Commission, will speak at 3:15. Saturday's program will conclude with entertainment by Sister Katherine of the Charitable Sisters of Izod (a Sacramento "order" of gay male nuns).

According to Spencer Fields, local organizer of the conference, attendees will be urged to join in the activities of Summerfest '82 at Helvetia Park following Saturday's adjournment.

Sacramento women's activist Alberta Kelly will lead off the day's program at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 4. At 10:30 a.m. Pat Schechter, a student of theology, and a member of Catholics for Human Dignity, will speak.

Following a break for lunch, Sunday's events will continue at 12:30 p.m. with two workshops. Dignity/Bay Area will lead a discussion on creating new Dignity chapters, and Fr. Larry Tozzio, O.F.M., will facilitate a workshop on "Clergy and Religious Participation in Dignity." A slideshow from Dignity/Seattle, site of the 1983 Dignity National Convention, will be shown at 1:30. The assistance of all participants in cleaning up will be greatly appreciated from 2:30 to 3:30.

The conference will conclude at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, with mass at St. Francis Church, 26th and K Streets, host parish of Dignity/Sacramento. Fr. Mel Bucher, chaplain of Dignity/Sacramento and newly-named pastor of St. Francis Church, will celebrate the mass. *



STAR Photo by Gene Hoisington

Throngs Enjoy SF Parade, Fair

By JAMES K. GRAHAM

It was a glorious day for a parade in San Francisco! The weather was warm and sunny, the sky a brilliant blue with a few wisps of feathery white clouds.

A crowd of 300,000 gathered for the tenth annual Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Fair on Sunday, June 27. From all over California they came, and from the rest of the United States, and from the rest of the world.

Led by a contingent of Dykes on Bikes, groups and individuals representing every aspect of the lesbian and gay community proudly marched down Market Street to United Nations Plaza in front of City Hall. Women on Wheels, Gay Fathers, Gray Panthers, physicians, business people, ethnic groups, political groups, religious groups, bars, bands, leather, lace, drag, and muscles—all were there, affirming their pride in their identity.

At the fair, one could gorge on every

kind of cuisine from Polish sausage to Mexican churros, from chow mein to falafels. One could buy a different T-shirt for every day of the week, support any number of causes, and pick up literature on everything from the Women's Press Project to the Gay Olympics.

Marred only by the death of 19-year-old San Franciscan Darrell Anderson, who was crushed under the I Beam

float as he tried to repair a faulty generator, the parade was the largest lesbian/gay pride celebration in the world. Other U.S. cities holding parades on Sunday were New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Atlanta.

See Issue No. 4 of The STAR, July 14, for extensive photo coverage of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Fair. *

King Father of California Names Retinue

Ken Peacock, King Father IX of All California, paid a visit to Sacramento's Rawley Hills Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire at the Mercantile Saloon on Monday evening, June 21.

The occasion was the naming of his Royal Household. Assisted by Lord

High Chamberlain Chuck Thornley and pages Marci McRae, Grand Duchess of Sacramento, and Jerry Ford, Peacock honored 62 individuals with titles ranging from the simple, such as Royal Baron and Royal Countess, to the elaborate, such as Royal Marquessa de Yuba City and Royal Guard Attendant Upon the King Father. *

ERA Lives!

As today's deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution drew closer and closer last week, a feeling of resignation to its impending defeat seemed to spread across the country.

But speaking about "resignation to defeat" conveys the wrong impression about people's feelings. Yes, there is disappointment, even some bitterness, that the ERA will not be ratified. But there is also a growing feeling of confidence and satisfaction about the tremendous amount of popular consciousness-raising that has accompanied the ten-year fight for ratification.

After the Florida Senate rejected the amendment on Monday, June 21, and the Illinois House rejected it on Tuesday, June 22, it seemed virtually certain that the required additional three states would not ratify it by the June 30 deadline. However, supporters of equal rights for all citizens did not roll over and die, as their conservative opponents apparently hoped they would.

Health

Poppers' Side Effects Can Injure or Kill

Dear Doctor:

I am a single 23-year-old gay male and have been sexually active for the last two years. Virtually all my bed-time activities have been oral-genital; however, I have become increasingly interested in being receptive in anal intercourse ('getting fucked'). I'm scared of getting hurt, which has been inhibiting me from actualizing my almost nightly fantasies. Friends of mine have told me that if I use 'poppers' I'll be much more relaxed and able to enjoy anal penetration without getting hurt. I'd love to try it, but I'm concerned about the rumors that poppers can be seriously dangerous to my health. Is there any truth to this?

EAGER BUT ANXIOUS

Dear Eager But:

From your letter, it is clear to me that neither you nor your friends know much about poppers, what they do, and the possible consequences of using them.

'Poppers' is the street name for a group of either liquid or solid drugs that are most frequently obtainable in the bars, baths, adult bookstores, and X-rated movie theaters. The active ingredient in them is either amyl nitrate or butyl nitrite, the latter being far more common than the former.

They both act by dilating the small arteries (arterioles) and veins (venules) in your body, and thereby reduce your blood pressure. This often accounts for the 'rush,' but also leads to facial flushing (redness), headaches, palpitations, and tachycardia (the racing of the heart to try to maintain the blood supply to the vital organs). The effects are transitory and are most often gone in 15 minutes or less.

Unfortunately, both of these drugs have untoward side effects. Both narrow the airways to your lungs (broncho-constriction), which leads to shortness of breath (dyspnea) and coughing. They also alter the chemical structure of hemoglobin, the iron-protein in your blood and red blood cells, making it less capable of carrying oxygen. When this happens, a new hemoglobin, called methemoglobin, is formed, which can lead to the destruction of red blood cells and a condition called 'methemoglobinemia' that will make you turn gray. While this condition is reversible, by withdrawal of the drug and administration of massive amounts of oxygen, it can be quite serious and lead to heart, brain, liver, or kidney damage.

There are a number of other serious concerns about poppers. Although the manufacturers of these agents label the bottles/ampules as 'room odorizers,' with warnings against prolonged

inhalation/ingestion, the products are presently not classified as drugs. Hence, there is no federal or state agency, like the Food and Drug Administration, which monitors the ingredients mixed with the amyl or butyl. As a result, it is often not known what other toxic or caustic agents that may have deleterious effects are contained in them.

I am hopeful that this present lack of controls will change in the near future. Many gay doctors' groups are actively petitioning the F.D.A. to classify poppers as drugs, so that they will fall under some regular scrutiny and control.

A final and perhaps most frightening implication of popper use must be mentioned. As you may have read or heard from me previously, there are increasing reports of gay men suffering from a prolonged viral illness called cytomegalovirus (CMV), which initially appears as a kind of mononucleosis. This disease has been associated with chronic swelling of the lymph glands for longer than six months and with certain deficiencies of the immune system (one of the body's major defenses against infection and cancer).

Not every person contracting either Kaposi's Sarcoma (the 'gay skin cancer') or pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (the 'gay pneumonia') has evidence of active CMV disease or is a frequent user of poppers. But the association of promiscuity, poppers, CMV, and these two deadly diseases has caused a great deal of alarm in the gay medical community. It is actively being researched in centers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York. The final word is not yet out.

Be wary and look for further information here in The STAR, as the answers may be available soon.

SANDY POMERANTZ, M.D.

ORCF Elects Officers

Our River City Family elected new officers at their June 19 potluck. Frank Lawler was elected Director; Diana Netherland, Associate Director; Marty Kurz, Secretary; Paul Schierenberg, Treasurer; and Walt Preston, Historian.

Lawler, host at the potluck, also provided entertainment, as did the Capitol City Squares.

ORCF, founded in 1980 as an alternative and supplementary social organization, has attracted more than 1,000 people to its potlucks and cultural, athletic, and civic activities. Call 485-7960 for more information about Our River City Family. *

On Thursday, June 24, Democratic Senator Earl Hilliard introduced the Equal Rights Amendment into the Alabama Legislature. Hilliard asked for immediate consideration, but three senators objected and sent the measure to the Rules Committee. One, Senator Albert McDonald, chair of the committee, practically guaranteed that the resolution would not get out of committee to the Senate floor.

Senator Hilliard's attempt, however hopeless, to get the ERA ratified in Alabama, was typical of the attitude that prevailed before the ratification period expired. He explained that he wanted to give the people and legislature of his state "a chance to move forward."

Also typical of the mood among ERA supporters was the comment by Dina Bachelor of Los Angeles, one of seven women from all over the country who fasted for 37 days in Springfield, the Illinois state capital. "Our fast was like a pebble dropped in a pond," she said. "The ripples for years beyond this will be felt. I did not come here with my sole purpose ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. I wanted to make a statement of women's deprivation and hunger for justice."

Another of the fasters, Sonia Johnson of Sterling, Virginia, said, "We have demonstrated that ordinary women can do extraordinary things. Perhaps we lost the battle, but we know we are going to win the war."

Johnson's sentiments were echoed on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, June 23, when ERA proponents in both houses of Congress announced that a new ERA identical to the present amendment would be introduced in both the House and Senate on July 12, the day Congress returns from its July 4th recess.

Senator Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., said the apparent rejection of the current ERA this week "signifies not an end but a beginning of the fight for ratification of the ERA in this country."

"We have decided another extension is inappropriate. This way we will have the full seven years to do it," Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., told the House.

She said she hopes to have 218 House sponsors on the measure by then. In the Senate, a new ERA draft already being circulated by Tsongas and Senator Bob Packwood, R-Ore., now has 38 co-sponsors.

"This week is a grim one for ERA supporters (that) brings home the jolting reality that the Democratic process is not working for women," Rep. Schroeder said in a House speech. But, she added, "The fact that debate on the ERA has been so lively down to the wire proves that the amendment and the issue is far from its death bed."

Sen. Tsongas, citing recent public opinion surveys, said, "The American people feel more strongly than ever that the ERA should become the 27th amendment to the Constitution."

The new amendment will have to be approved by two-thirds votes in both House and Senate before it can be sent to the states for ratification. It will then have to be ratified by 38 states within the next seven years.

Like the current ERA, the new one will state that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The STAR urges our readers to do everything in their power to forward the cause of the new Equal Rights Amendment. Talk to your friends and families, your acquaintances and co-workers. Write to your state and national legislators.

The passage of the Equal Rights Amendment is an essential step in guaranteeing to all American citizens the rights won in the War of Independence and granted in the Constitution. As we celebrate those rights this weekend in Independence Day festivities, let us remember that the fight is not yet over, that it is our fight, and that it cannot be won without our help. *

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Softball, Summerfest Highlight July Fourth Weekend

The Wreck Room Games, the second annual invitational softball tournament sponsored by the Wreck Room, will share the top spot for Fourth of July weekend attractions with the Wreck Room's Summerfest, Saturday and Sunday, July 3 and 4.

The softball tournament, featuring teams from Los Angeles, Seattle, Vancouver, and San Francisco in addition to the local Wreck Room Stars and Parking Lot Attendants, will begin Friday evening, July 2, at the Wreck Room with a Welcome to Sacramento party. Playing times will also be chosen Friday evening.

The competition gets underway at 9 a.m. Saturday, on O'Neil Field, Sixth and X Streets. It continues at the same hour Sunday morning, concluding at 5 p.m. Sunday with 'Pig-out in the Dug-out.'

Summerfest, featuring music, swimming, volleyball, entertainment, a buffet, and a country-western dance, opens at noon Saturday at Helvetia Park along the Sacramento River. Admission is \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the gate, and includes the buffet. Proceeds will go to the Wreck Room Stars' travel fund and will also be used to help defray the expenses of the Wreck Room Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration float.

Teams invited to compete in the Wreck Room Games include the first and second place teams in the Seattle Gay Softball League, Char's Cove and Cafe Ritz. Char's Cove has won their division title for the last two years, and placed first in the Seattle Cascade Cup competition on Memorial Day weekend. Cafe Ritz placed third in the Cascade Cup.

The Hayloft team, from Los Angeles, currently leads the Los Angeles Gay Softball League, and won second place in the league in the 1981 season. Also in 1981, the Hayloft carried away first place in the Cascade Cup.

The Pilsner Inn team, currently leading their division in the San Francisco Gay Softball League, are newcomers to inter-city competition. This is their first entry in a Gay Softball League tournament.

Composed of the best players from various teams in the Vancouver West End Softball League from Sacramento's sister city in Canada, the Vancouver All-Stars are the first international team in gay softball competition. The All-Stars participated in the 1980 Sacramento Invitational Games.

The Parking Lot Attendants from Sacramento, sponsored by the Parking

Lot bar on Auburn Boulevard, are the newest team in the Gay Softball League.

The host Wreck Room Stars, originally the Hut Hustlers, are one of the oldest teams, in existence for eight years. Also competing in the city Parks and Recreation softball league, the Stars placed first in their division in 1981 and second in 1982. They are the defending champions for the Sacramento Invitational Games, having won here for the last three years.

According to Stars manager Paul Coke, the Wreck Room Games should be a very exciting event, with a lot of good playing from some of the best gay softball teams on the West Coast. He urges local fans to come out to the games and cheer on their favorite teams and players. ★

Ana Marie's Gets Women's Approval, Everyone Welcome

By AMBER STEWART

Friday, June 18, saw the opening of a much-needed institution in Sacramento — a woman's bar. Ana Marie's opened to a large crowd of women and some men, who had been waiting for that day for so long.

At the opening, I saw women I hadn't seen since the closing of the Crescent Moon, and heard comments like "great," "I'm jazzed," and "beautiful." It seemed that most of the women were very pleased with the fact that there was a separate, sit-down section, where the music could be heard, but

not to the exclusion of conversation. On the dance floor, however, even with the crowd, the music was adequately loud.

The bar is a large, free-standing oval. Lots of women can crowd around the bar, and there is still room for the employees to get to the service bar. The disco booth is wonderful! An old cab from a truck, big, white, and shiny. I loved it!

I approached manager Dan Raley on opening night, and he was quick to inform me that he did not discuss business during the bar hours, but would be more than happy to meet with me during the week. When we did meet, I was very impressed with Dan. I found a man who appears to be honest, completely uninterested in playing bar politics, and honestly interested in the women who will make up his clientele.

When asked about the other bars, Raley replied that every bar makes its own crowd, people who become that establishment's regulars, and he does not see that there is any need for competition among the bars. Ana Marie's is the only bar that is a women's bar. However, he does not want women to feel that they cannot feel free to bring their male friends with them, if they choose.

I felt obliged to ask Raley why, if it was a women's bar, I saw so many male employees. He replied that, in actuality, there are only two male employees and five female. The bar is not closed to men, and he does not want to create that impression. But it is basically for the women.

We talked about the possibility of bands,

live entertainment, being open more nights a week (currently Ana Marie's is open only Friday and Saturday nights), private parties, fund raisers, and so on. Raley feels that he will go as far as he is supported. And as for fund raisers and political functions, he is open to them, with the understanding that he is open to them for the entire community, not one or two groups. For example, if the softball league wanted to have a fundraiser, he would support that, but he would not feel comfortable supporting only one team.

Raley especially wanted to express to the women of this community his thanks for the opening weekend and for the weeks preceeding. He has managed many bars in his time, and was "blown away" when word got out about this one. He said women were calling him for weeks before opening, offering their services in carpentry, painting, cleaning, etc.

"I have never seen so much support from a community before. It actually gave me the chills, and I just want to thank these women. I think they are the nicest group of women I've ever seen."

Thanks Dan, good luck! !★



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